proposed to be stepped up by 30 per cent in 2005-06 over the credit disbursement of Rs.1,15,243/- crore in 2004-05, which exceeded the credit disbursement of Rs. 86,981 crore made in 2003-04 by 32 per cent. Cumulatively the measures sustained on a progressive basis are expected to lead to a reversal of deceleration in agricultural growth. Simultaneously since agriculture is a state subjects, states will have to increase their budgetary outlays on agriculture.

Production of foodgrains

†493. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whather it is a fact that the production of foodgrains in the current year is apprehended to dcerease in comparison to the production of the same during the last years;

(b) if so, the efforts being made to meet the shortage of foodgrains;

(c) how Government propose to compensate the losses suffered by farmers; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to prevent recurrence of shortage of foodgrains in future?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The behaviour of monsoon was erratic in the month of june 2005 and at the All India level the cummulative rainfall from 1st june to 29th June was 20% less than the normal. However, the monsoon revived subsequently and the cumulative rain fall from 1st june to 20th July 2005 and at the All India level was 349.5 millimeter equal to normal rainfall. Cumulative rainfall was excess/ normal in 29 Meteorlogical Sub-Division (MSD) out of the 36 MSDs in the country.

The delayed onset of south -west monsoon has affected sowing activities. As per the reports considered by the Crop Wheather Watch Group of the Ministry of agriculture in its meeting held on 25.07.2005, the status of sowing of crops in Kharif 2005-06 as compared to the corresponding period of 2004-05 is as follows:—

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Lakh hectares)

Crop/Year	2005-06	2004-05
Rice	143.55	169.78
Coarse Cereal	144.51	139.00
Pulses	57.15	68.09

However, the sowing operation have acclerated with steady arrival of monsoon and it is expected that the area under crops will improve in the coming weeks. At this juncture no shortage of foodgrains and losses to the farmers is anticipated for 2005-06.

(d) To increase the production and productivity of different cereal crops, various schemes like Intregated Crop Development Programme (ICDP) for Coarse Cereals, Wheat and Rice had been implemented, which have since been subsumed under Macro Management Programme.

In order to increase the production and productivty of oilseeds and pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Intregated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is being implemented since 01.04.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided for production of breeder seed, foundation seed, and certified seed, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed, and Minikits, infrastructure development, integrated Pest Managment etc.

Keeping in view the importance of agriculture, the Union Budget 2005-06 has provided substantial outlays in key areas like irrigation, including micro irrigration, horticulture and marketing. The Budget has also proposed to increase the disbursment of credit to farmers by 30 per cent in 2005-06 over the disbursment of Rs. 1,15,243 crore in 2004-05.

Scheme for development of sugarcane

494. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing any scheme for development of sugarcane and to increase its productivity;

(b) if so, the sailent features thereof;